

Application No. 10/502,056

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

¹
Claim ~~16~~ (Currently Amended): A catalyst composition for the oxychlorination of ethylene, comprising a mixture of metal salts on a support, wherein said metal salts are applied to the support in such ratios that the catalyst composition comprises

- a) from 3 to 12% by weight of copper as copper salt,
- b) from ≥ 0 to 3% by weight of an alkaline earth metal as alkaline earth metal salt,
- c) from ≥ 0 to 3% by weight of an alkali metal as alkali metal salt,
- d) from 0.001 to 0.1% by weight of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium and platinum, and/or from 0.0001 to 0.1% by weight of gold, as corresponding metal salt or tetrachloroauric acid, and wherein all percentages by weight are based on the total weight of the catalyst including support material.

²
Claim ~~17~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,¹ wherein the metal salts are selected from metal halides, metal oxyhalides or metal oxides of the respective metal and tetrachloroauric acid.

³
Claim ~~18~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~17~~,² wherein the metal halides are metal chlorides of the respective metal.

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⁴
Claim ~~19~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,
comprising from 0.005 to 0.05% by weight of at least one metal selected from the group
consisting of ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium and platinum.

⁵
Claim ~~20~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,
comprising from 0.001 to 0.05% by weight of gold.

⁶
Claim ~~21~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,
wherein the component d) used, is a ruthenium salt or a gold salt.

⁷
Claim ~~22~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,
wherein the component b) used, is a magnesium salt.

⁸
Claim ~~23~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,
wherein the component c) used, is a potassium salt.

⁹
Claim ~~24~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,
wherein the support used, is aluminum oxide.

¹⁰
Claim ~~25~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,
wherein the support has a pore volume in the range from 0.15 to 0.75 cm³/g.

¹¹
Claim ~~26~~ (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~,
wherein the specific surface area of the support used, is in the range from 20 to 400 m²/g.

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¹²
Claim ~~27~~ (Withdrawn): A fixed-bed catalyst comprising the catalyst composition as claimed in claim ¹~~16~~, in the shape of hollow cylinders or annular pellets whose end faces are rounded both to the outer edge and to the edge of the central holes.

¹³
Claim ~~28~~ (Withdrawn): A process for preparing 1,2-dichloroethane, comprising oxychlorinating ethylene in the presence of a catalyst composition as claimed in claim ~~16~~.

¹⁴
Claim ~~29~~ (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim ¹³~~28~~, which is a circulation reactor process.

¹⁵
Claim ~~30~~ (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim ¹³~~28~~, wherein the catalyst is used as a moving bed.

¹⁶
Claim ~~31~~ (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim ¹³~~28~~, wherein the catalyst is used as a fixed bed.

¹⁷
Claim ~~32~~ (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim ¹⁶~~31~~, wherein the catalyst is used as a fixed bed in the form of hollow cylinders or annular pellets whose end faces are rounded both to the outer edge and to the central holes.